

From: David Irvine
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Terrorism

I read with interest (or rather incredulity and resignation) about the settlement of the class action suit where Microsoft is required to give a bunch of free software to make up for their failings.

Microsoft must be laughing all the way to the bank. We have seen here in Australia, many cases where our proposals to develop web applications based on international standards are rejected because the organization is reluctant to put any non-Microsoft software on their servers because it would jeopardize their continued supply of free software from Microsoft. Microsoft uses their monopoly to force the competition out by giving away free software and holding that power over the head of any organization that dares to try anything that could be construed as competition.

On top of this Microsoft is actively encouraging the development of web sites that only work properly using Microsoft operating systems, applications and browsers. Witness the sudden unannounced dropping of support for browser plug-ins that their competition use. Suddenly you must do it the Microsoft way and no other. Very large numbers of web sites must change overnight with no prior warning.

Microsoft represents the most dangerous anti-competitive monopoly the US has ever seen due to the poor quality of their products and lack of attention to security. The homogeneous nature of the US computing environment represents a major opportunity for terrorists. Even relatively uneducated young teenagers know how to attack.

Break it up! Put it in competition with itself. And stop Microsoft's predation on other companies that produce good cross-platform applications. They acquire the company and drop the versions that run on competing systems.

What are you afraid of?

David Irvine

PS. Why is it that Microsoft Office is so expensive and its only real competition must give away their product if it even hopes to compete?